GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4225
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF NICD
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has failed to provide timely diagnostic investigations during mysterious outbreaks of diseases ;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the cause of its failure;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the functioning of NICD and make it effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR.ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (e): National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) investigates disease outbreaks in different parts of the country round the year on the request of State Health Authorities or as per epidemiological requirement. In most situations, the methods are well established and containment measures are advocated to the concerned State Government authorities. However, in some situations when the disease presentation is complex, in-depth advanced laboratory investigations are often required which is time consuming. In reported disease outbreaks involving new emerging pathogens of communicable disease or due to non-communicable agents, NICD seeks support from other national and international agencies to diagnose and control outbreaks, if required. The preliminary reports submitted by NICD after each investigation are timely and based on the clinico-epidemiological and field observations, and diagnosed to the extent of taking immediate control measures which are communicated to the concerned State Governments immediately.

NICD has responded immediately by investigating and conducting health status assessments during 2003-2005 all over the country relating to different diseases on the request of various State Governments.

As the Institute is performing its duties well, there is no proposal to review its functioning. However, certain plan schemes are envisaged during the X Plan to further strengthen the activities of the Institute.